

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION EUR-12

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P R 051345Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7351

INFO AMBASSY BONN 1549

UNCLAS PRAGUE 2997

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, ACOM, CZ

SUBJECT: FAILURE OF TELEPHONE EXCHANGE

1. WE BELIEVE TELEPHONE EXCHANGE (EPA/BX) SERVING CHANCERY IS FAST APPROACHING COMPLETE BREAKDOWN. C&R OFFICER SPENT 7 HOURS THIS WEEK IN 3 DAYS REPAIRING NUMEROUS MALFUNCTIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN AVERAGING 4 PER WEEK OVER THE PAST 5 MONTHS. EXCHANGE HAS BEEN FUNCTIONING POORLY FOR EIGHT MONTHS DUE TO NONAVAILABILITY OF PRIMARY-SECONDARY MATRIX REPLACEMENT.

2. ALTHOUGH EXCHANGE IS ONLY 5 YEARS OLD, WE UNDERSTAND THAT WE HAVE FIRST MODEL OF ITS TYPE, FOR WHICH CRITICAL COMPONENT PARTS ARE NOT AVAILABLE. IT HAS FUNCTIONED POORLY FOR THE PAST 4 YEARS, WHILE WE AGREE THAT USEFUL LIFE OF THIS EXCHANGE SHOULD BE MUCH GREATER THAN 5 YEARS, WE BELIEVE DEPT. SHOULD SEEK FINANCIAL COMPENSATION FROM MANUFACTURER IF JUSTIFIED SO THAT THIS EXCHANGE CAN BE PROPERLY REPAIRED OR REPLACED. AT THIS POINT, AN OLD-STYLE, BUT WORKABLE, EXCHANGE WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO THE PRESENT EPA/BX.

3. BREAKDOWN OF EXCHANGE WOULD CREATE AN EMERGENCY BY HAM-STRINGING EMBASSY BUSINESS. THUS WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND DEPT. MAKE IMMEDIATE CONTINGENCY PLANS TO REPLACE EXCHANGE IN NEAR FUTURE IF NECESSARY.
PERRY

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